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NEWS AND NOTES

A recently published list of registered investigators at the New York Botanical Garden during the first ten years of its history shows that nearly 25 per cent. of these investigators devoted all or most of their time while in residence to the study of fungi.

A summary of botanical work at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station from 1882 to 1907, by F. C. Stewart, indicates the great advances made in plant pathology since the discovery of bordeaux mixture in France and the establishment of agricultural experiment stations throughout the United States.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Murrill returned from Jamaica, January 27, with a large collection of fleshy fungi. Collections were made at fourteen different points on the island, from sea level to elevations of over six thousand feet. Copious notes and colored illustrations were obtained from specimens in a fresh condition.

The Journal of the New York Botanical Garden for December contains an article of several pages on the edible fungi of Bronx Park, illustrated by two plates containing twelve figures, five of which are colored.

Nine parts of North American Flora have been issued to date, four of which are mycological in character. Vol. 7, part 1, contains descriptions of the families Ustilaginaceae and Tilletiaceae, by G. P. Clinton; vol. 7, part 2, the Coleosporiaceae, Uredinaceae and Aecidiaceae (pars), by J. C. Arthur; and vol. 9, parts 1 and 2, the Polyporaceae, by W. A. Murrill.

An important addition to the literature of the fleshy fungi has recently been made by Miss Gertrude Burlingham, now of the Eastern High School, Brooklyn, who was a student at the Garden and Columbia University from 1905 to 1908, during which time she made an exhaustive study of the Lactariae, or gill-fungi having a milky juice. The results of her studies appeared May 26 as a memoir of the Torrey Botanical Club (14: 1–109. *f. 1–15.* 1908). The descriptions and notes are very complete, and the illustrations, from photographs by the author, are excellent. A feature of great value to collectors is a condensed description of each species when fresh with distinguishing characters to be used in the field. Seventy-one species are recognized in the United States, six of these being described as new.

The Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, issued in August, 1908, contains the results of a series of infection experiments with *Erysiphe Chicoracearum* D.C. which were obtained by Dr. G. M. Reed. It has been previously shown that among the mildews a single morphological species may consist of several physiologically distinct forms limited in their occurrence to a single host or several closely related hosts. As a result of the experiments on the above named powdery mildew, seventeen species and varieties of cucurbits are added to the list of the host plants of this fungus. It is also shown that the biologic form of *E. Chicoracearum* D.C. occurring on so many cucurbits is not confined to the species of this family. The results of the many inoculation experiments are carefully tabulated in this paper, furnishing a reliable basis for the conclusions drawn by the author. The conclusions of various writers in regard to physiological forms of parasitic fungi are reviewed. It is supposed that these physiological forms represent the first stages in the evolution of species morphologically distinct.

The October number of Annales Mycologici contains a monograph of the North American Geoglossaceae by Dr. E. J. Durand, of Cornell University. The author recognizes for this family of discomycetous fungi in North America eleven genera, forty-two species and two varieties. In addition to this number, eleven species have been reported from North America which are not well known. One new genus and nine new species are described.

The paper is accompanied by eighteen plates, containing, in all, two hundred and twenty-two figures, consisting of camera lucida drawings, photographs and microphotographs illustrating characters which are of importance in the diagnosis of the various genera and species. This monograph represents a very thorough piece of work, since practically all of the existing types of the species described have been examined, and it therefore furnishes a reliable basis for future work on this attractive group of plants in which the flora of North America is said to be especially rich.

At a meeting of plant pathologists called at Baltimore, December 30, 1908, in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. A. D. Selby, of the Ohio Experiment Station, was elected temporary chairman, and Mr. Donald Reddick, temporary secretary. The temporary committee, appointed at Washington, December 15, consisting of C. L. Shear, Donald Reddick and W. A. Orton, presented its report recommending that an organization of American plant pathologists be perfected.

The report of the committee was accepted and temporary organization was effected by the unanimous election of the following officers:

President—Professor L. R. Jones, Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station.

Vice-President—Professor A. D. Selby, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. C. L. Shear, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Councilmen—Professor J. B. S. Norton, Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station; Professor B. M. Duggar, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station.

The five officers elected form a council which is to consider and make recommendations in regard to all questions relating to the permanent organization, policy and affiliation of the society

The next meeting will be called at such time and place as may be decided by the council.

It is well known that practically all of the chestnut trees in and about New York City have been killed within the past few years by the chestnut canker, *Diaporthe parasitica;* but the number of trees destroyed has been only very roughly estimated. Through the efforts, however, of Mr. J. J. Levison, arboriculturist of the parks of Brooklyn, who has made a careful survey of Forest Park, it is now known that 16,695 chestnut trees were killed in the 350 acres of woodland in this park alone. Of this number, about 9,000 were between eight and twelve inches in diameter, and the remaining 7,000 or more were of larger size.